

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/766,426

Examiner

J. Bret Dennison

Applicant(s)

SHAFFER ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 5 April 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-33.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 18 January 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

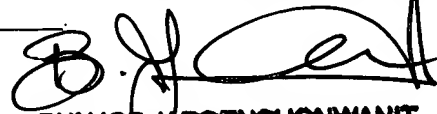
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 22 June 2005.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


BUNJOB JAROENCHONWANIT
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An Examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Thomas Frame (Reg. # 47,232) on 6/21/05 and 6/22/05.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1, Line 3, replace "**endpoints**", with **--clients--**.

Claim 6, include the following underlined portions:

A media gateway, comprising:
an interface operable to couple to a communication network; and
a processing module coupled to the interface, the processing module operable to:

play a prompt to a plurality of clients if a transfer message indicates a change in the number of clients participating in a conference call; and

transfer **a responsibility for mixing of media streams of** the conference call from a first call resource to a second call resource **based on the transfer message**;

wherein the processing module simultaneously plays the prompt and transfers the conference call, **the prompt operable to mask the transfer of responsibility for mixing of the media streams between the first and second call resources.**

Claim 10, Line 3, replace "endpoints", with --clients--.

Claim 14 Line 3, replace "endpoints", with --clients--.

Claim 18, Line 3, replace "endpoints", with --clients--.

Claim 18, Line 13, after "streams are synchronized" include the following limitation at the end of the claim:

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communicating a prompt to a plurality of clients during the transfer of responsibility for mixing of the media streams if the message indicates a change in the number of clients participating in the conference call, the prompt operable to mask the transfer of responsibility for mixing of the media streams between the first and second call resources.--

Claim 23, Line 16, after "the second mixed media stream", include the following limitation at the end of the claim:

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wherein a prompt is communicated to the plurality of endpoints during a transfer of responsibility for the first mixed media stream if a message received at the media gateway indicates a change in the number of endpoints participating in the conference call, the prompt operable to mask the transfer of responsibility for the first mixed media stream from the first call resource to the second mixed media stream from the second call resource.--

Claim 33, Line 29, after “for mixing at the second call resource”, include the following limitation at the end of the claim:

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wherein a prompt is communicated to the first and second plurality of conference call participants during the transfer of responsibility for mixing of the first and duplicated second plurality of unmixed packet streams if the request indicates a change in the number of call participants participating in the first conference call, the prompt operable to mask the transfer of responsibility for mixing of the first and duplicated second plurality of unmixed packet streams between the first and second call resources.--

Reasons For Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The claimed invention provides novel use masking the transfer of responsibility of a conference call between call resources by communicating a prompt to the clients of the conference call. This “masking” of the claimed invention reads in the supporting portions of the specification at Page 3, Lines 20-22, Page 3, Lines 25-31, Page 4, Lines 15-25, Page 16, Lines 3-15, enacting this functionality by providing a prompt to the clients of the

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conference which indicates the number of clients participating in the call, while also masking the handoff between call resources since no communication may occur during the prompt according to the description provided by the specification at Page 16, Lines 3-15, Page 24, Lines 29-31, Page 25, 1-7. The prompt occurring only in the condition that the message indicates a change in the number of client participating, along with masking the handoff of the responsibility of the conference results in an improved conference call transferring mechanism which was not taught or suggested by the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

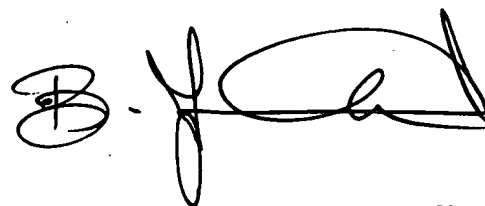
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to J. Bret Dennison whose telephone number is (571) 272-3910. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A Wiley can be reached on (571) 272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



J. B. D.
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2143



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